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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Osamu IKEDA)
Continuation of U.S. Application No.: 09/002,349)
Filed: January 2, 1998) PRIOR
Continuation Application filed April 22, 2002) Group Art Unit: 2612
For: ELECTRONIC CAMERA WITH) PRIOR
SELF-EXPLANATION/DIAGNOSIS) Examiner: M. White
MODE (As Amended))

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2002
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the CPA filed on April 22, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 14, 18 and 21-23 as follows.

B1 sub c
1. (Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, comprising:
an operation input unit for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera to be performed;
an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;

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a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;

a playback unit for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium; and

a mode selector for selecting one operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes that include an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback unit plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, and the mode selector are enclosed within a main camera body.

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14. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:
an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;
a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;

a playback unit for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium;

a mode selector for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of the camera if the function diagnosis mode is

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Cmend*

selected by the mode selector, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at least one of the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, wherein at least the recorder, the mode selector, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

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18. (Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

- a mode selector externally switchable to select one of a function diagnosis mode and a normal mode;
- an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;
- an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation unit while the camera is in the normal mode;
- a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;
- a playback unit for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and
- a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by

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the mode selector, wherein at least the mode selector, the operation input unit, the recorder, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

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21. (Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

- a mode selector externally switchable to select one of an operation explanation mode, a function diagnosis mode, and a normal mode;
- an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;
- an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;
- a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;
- a playback unit for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and
- a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback

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unit plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the camera operations and functions thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

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22. (Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, comprising:

input means for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera to be performed;

capture means for capturing an image of an object;

recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording medium;

playback means for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording means; and

selecting means for selecting an operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes, where one operation mode is an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the selecting means, the playback means plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions thereof and wherein at least the input means, the recording means, and the selecting means are enclosed within a main camera body.

136 sub 23. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:
08 capturing means for capturing an image of an object;
recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording
medium;
playback means for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording
medium;
selecting means for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and
testing means for testing functions of the camera if the function diagnosis mode is
selected by the selecting means, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at
least one of the capturing means, the recording means, and the playback means, wherein at least
the recording means, the selecting means, and the testing means are enclosed within a main
camera body.